IN THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) An intervertebral spacer device comprising:

first and second plates that are spaced from one another;

at least one ~~domed arch~~ arched strip spring disposed between said first and second plates for counteracting compressive loads applied to said plates;

said at least one ~~domed arch~~ arched strip spring having opposing ends coupled with said first plate and a curvate central portion between the opposing ends that is coupled with said second plate.

9. (previously presented) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 8, said first plate having a first inner surface and a first outer surface and said second plate having a first inner surface and a second outer surface, wherein the inner surface of said first plate opposes the inner surface of said second plate.

10. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim ~~8~~ 9, wherein said at least one ~~domed arch~~ arched strip spring is disposed between the inner surfaces of said first and second plates.

11. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the opposing ends of said at least one ~~domed arch~~ arched strip spring are flat and lie against the inner surface of said first plate.

12. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one ~~domed arch~~ arched strip spring comprises two or more ~~domed arch~~ arched strip ~~spring~~ springs disposed between said first and second plates.

13. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the opposing ends of said at least one ~~domed arch~~ arched strip spring are connected to said first plate and the curvate central portion of said at least one ~~domed arch~~ arched strip spring ~~are~~ is connected to said second plate.

14. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 8, wherein the opposing ends of said at least one ~~domed arch~~ arched strip spring have threaded openings that are aligned with respective threaded openings in said first plate, said spacer further comprising fasteners insertible through the aligned threaded openings.

15. (previously presented) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 14, wherein said fasteners are threaded fasteners.

16. (previously presented) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one of the outer surfaces of said first and second plates comprises a porous coating.

17. (previously presented) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 16, wherein said porous coating comprises a wire mesh.

18. (previously presented) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 17, wherein said porous coating comprises a deflectable wire mesh.

19. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 18, wherein said deflectable wire mesh ~~normally~~ has a convex exterior surface.

20. (currently amended) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 8, wherein said spacer further comprises two or more ~~domed arch~~ arched strip springs disposed between said first and second plates, the opposing ends of each said arched strip spring being connected with said first plate and the curvate central portion of each said strip spring being connected with said second plate.

21. (previously presented) The intervertebral spacer as claimed in claim 20, wherein said strip springs are spaced from one another between said first and second plates.